Development of tribal arts and crafts

2431. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:
SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any scheme to protect and develop traditional rural and tribal arts and crafts which are facing gradual extinction; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The preservations and development of traditional rural and tribal arts and crafts has been one of the paramount concerns of the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) since its inception. With a view to achieve this end, a number of schemes/ programmes as per details given below have been undertaken by this office:—

1. Schemes of Marketing and Service Extension Centres:— The Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has set up 47 Marketing and Service Extension Centres, at various places in the country. Out of them 17 Marketing and Service Extension Centres have been set up in tribal and rural areas in the country. The Centres undertake various programmes like Crafts Bazars, Product Promotion Programmes, Market Meet Programmes etc. which are also aimed at exposure of tribal and rural crafts with special emphasis on these which are lessers know and languishing. Till 31-3-1988, as many as 905 such programmes have been organised which resulted in sales of the Order of Rs. 563.82 lacs. Besides the Centres are rendering package of services like assistance in credit, raw material, design etc. to the craftsmen for development of the traditional and rural crafts.

2. Special Scheme for Revival of Languishing Crafts:— A time bound action plan for revival of languising crafts throughout the country, has recently been chalked out. The scheme is to be implemented in three phases (I) identification of languishing crafts (II) Diagnostic study of these crafts and (ii) Implementation of pilot project. The first phase of the scheme is nearing completion and thereafter phase II and III will be taken up. Besides, a special Exhibition exclusively for rare crafts of Southern Region was recently held at Madras which was a great success.

3. Apprenticeship Training Scheme:— With a view to preserve the lesser known and languishing crafts in the country, especially in rural and tribal areas, the aprenticeship Training scheme under the master-craftsmen is under operation. At present, as many as 274 such training centres are in operation with 10 to 15 trainees per course.

4. Design Development Scheme:— Under this scheme, 4 Regional Design and Technical Development Centres, one each at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore have been set up which have been developing and documenting designs of rural and tribal crafts.

5. Scheme for Preservative of Cultural Heritage:— In order to preserve traditional crafts, a National Handicrafts and Handlooms Museum has been set up at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Its activities include research documentation, presentational of traditional handicrafts and organisation of Rural India Complex including live demonstration of rural and tribal crafts .

6. Miscellaneous Schemes:— There are a number of other schemes like National Award and pension to

craftpersons scheme, Exhibition scheme, Institutional training scheme, Common Facility Centres and raw material depot scheme etc. which also contribute to the development of rural and tribal crafts.

Complaints received by RBI Against Blade Companies

2432. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI MOHINDRA SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have received complaints against certain blade companies which attracted huge public deposits and subsequently disappeared with the deposits;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the amount of the public deposits involved in each of the blade companies against whom complaints have been received by the Reserve Bank; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has received a number of complaints against some "blade companies", which are reported to be unincorporated bodies engaged in acceptance of deposits from the public and lending the same. Acceptance of deposits by unincorporated bodies are regulated under the provisions of chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. These provisions prohibit acceptance of deposits by the unincorporated bodies inexcess of the specified number of depositors. The Act also provides for penal action, including fine and imprisonment for violations of the provisions of the Act.

RBI has further reported that the Bank has, either on its own or jointly with the State Government officials, conducted raids in the office premises of 1166 unincorporated bodies in the States of Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and the Union Territory of Delhi and criminal complaints have been launched against some of these firms for violations of the provisions of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. In one case the accused pleaded guilty in the court of law and was imposed a fine of Rs. 11000/-. The other cases are in different stages of trial. RBI has also reported that the particulars of amount of deposits with the "blade companies" are not available as such bodies are not required to send any returns to RBI.

The constitutional validity of Chapter III-C of Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 has been challenged and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court and is therefore, subjudice.

Demand for Registry of Supreme Court in Cochin

2433. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand for opening of a Registry of Supreme Court in Cochin; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The All India Socialist Lawyers Forum, Cochin, has intimated that they have discussed the matter with the Chief Justice of India. No proposal in this regard has been received from the Supreme Court of India.